



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Jeremy V. Criss
Director

MEMORANDUM

February 10, 2017

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: February 15, 2017 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on **Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown in Room D (Third Floor) at 7:00 pm.**

The agenda is on the next page.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Agriculture Services web site.
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Wednesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810

e:aacJanuary(aac17)



Agricultural Services

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Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
February 15, 2017

1. Meeting called to Order and Introductions.
2. Approval of the January 18, 2017 AAC meeting minutes.

3.ZTA 16-02 Agricultural Zone-Transferable Development Rights Requirements:

The MCFB, AAC, APAB, have provided comments supporting this MNCPPC staff draft ZTA that removes requirements for TDRs on dwellings that remain accessory to the farm. The OAG is monitoring the Planning Board agenda for this ZTA.

4.The OAG Farm Coloring Book:

The Office of Agriculture and Linda Lewis (Lewis Orchards) are working together to create “*A Year in Montgomery County Agriculture*” - an educational coloring/activity book that will feature coloring pages created from actual photographs of Montgomery County farms. Please let us know if you would like your farm to be included. We would like to have them available for the County Agricultural Fair.

5.Bill 37-16 Taxation-Development Impact Tax-Transportation and Public Schools:

The County Council approved Bill 37-16 and exempted Farm Tenant Dwellings from the Transportation Improvements component which totals \$21,822.

The tax rate for Child lot=\$22,654.

In response to a thank you letter from the AAC, Council Vice President Reimer and his staff contacted David Weitzer since he is currently requesting approval for a child lot for his daughter and her family.

The AAC letter included how Frederick County exempts farm lots for both children and grandchildren from their Development Impact Tax-David Gordon.

6.MC 21-17 Sunday Deer Hunting and MC 10-17 Archery Safety Zone

The Montgomery County Delegation met last Friday and approved the Sunday Deer Hunting bill and the Archery Safety Zone Bill. Both bills will move to the Senate Delegation where they will also need to be approved. The MCFB met with many Delegates and Senators on Wednesday as part of Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis. The MCFB was successful in getting Senators Feldman, Manno and Zucker to support the Sunday deer hunting bill and MCFB met with Senator Kegan’s Chief of Staff Justin Fiore. The DNR staff will support the proposed start and end times for 11 additional days of Sunday hunting.

7.Meeting with the Secretary of DNR Mark Belton on Statewide Deer legislation:

The OIG, OAG and members of the County Delegation (Eric Luedtke, David Fraser-Hidalgo and Jim Gilchrist) met with DNR Secretary Mark Belton and DNR staff to discuss Statewide Deer legislation. The DNR agreed to begin a Bi-Annual review of hunting regulations this fall and

consider extending the season to the end of February and one additional week of Shotgun for hunting deer. The DNR also said they would help to promote the County Deer Donation Program for hunters to take donated deer to K & S Kuts 12415 Prices Distillery Road Damascus, MD and cold box in Poolesville.

8.MOUs between the County-OAG and the (MSCD and UM-Extension)

The OAG staff and County Attorney have reviewed and revised the MOUs between the County Government and the (MSCD and UM-Extension). We hope to have these MOUs executed to memorialize the partnerships between the agricultural agencies including the County funding used to support the agricultural agencies.

9.FY 18 Mandatory Savings Plan for the County OAG

In December 2016, the OAG was required to submit a 2% savings plan for the General Fund portion of the appropriation for FY18. Outlined below you will see the breakdown of how the 2% savings was applied to each of the agricultural agencies of the OAG.

MSCD	\$6,680	General Fund Operating Expenses
OAG	9,195	
UM-Extension	<u>4,055</u>	
Total	\$19,930	=2% of the General Funds allocated to OAG

The OAG is working with the OHR to discuss reclassifying the District Manager position. Summary of August 4, 2015 Letter from the Director of OHR. “With your position transferring to an entirely new County department, the Office of Human Resources will evaluate your duties and responsibilities within 6 to 12 months to determine if your current position, grade, and status are consistent with the work being performed in the new department.” The MSCD requested the MSCD Manager Position-David Plummer be advised broadly and the OAG will start the process once the reclassification process is completed.

10.Minimum Wage Bill 12-16 See Attachment

The OAG has prepared a one-page summary of the minimum wage amounts for the County, State of Maryland and the Federal Government. Please see the draft AAC letter to the County Council that supports the County Executive’s recommendation to exempt small business from the County minimum wage making sure that agricultural businesses are included.

11.Urban Agricultural Tax Credit Bill 31-16.

The Government Operations Committee recommended approval of Bill 31-16 that will make residential properties between ½ acre and 3 acres eligible for a 5year property tax credit providing the property is used for Urban Farming under the zoning code definition and more than \$5,000 is generated in income from farming. The Tax Credit may be 80% of the tax bill which includes the residence. The property owner may reapply for the property tax credit every five years. The OAG will determine eligibility and forward recommendations to the DOF to process the property tax credit.

12.Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Please note AAC meetings for 2017-Jan, Feb, March, and April will be on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month and not the 2nd Tuesdays.

February 15, 2017 Room D

March 15, 2017 Room D

April 19, 2017 Room D

Montgomery Soil Conservation Board of Supervisors-February 10, 2017 @ 12:00pm

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-February 14, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Agricultural Advisory Committee-Wednesday February 15, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Annual Farmers Market Training-February 16, 2017 @ 9:30 am

Winter Agronomy Update-February 22, 2017 Urbana Fire Hall

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-March 7, 2017 @ 7:00pm

Annual Meeting for Montgomery Weed Control- March 21, 2017 @ 9:30 am